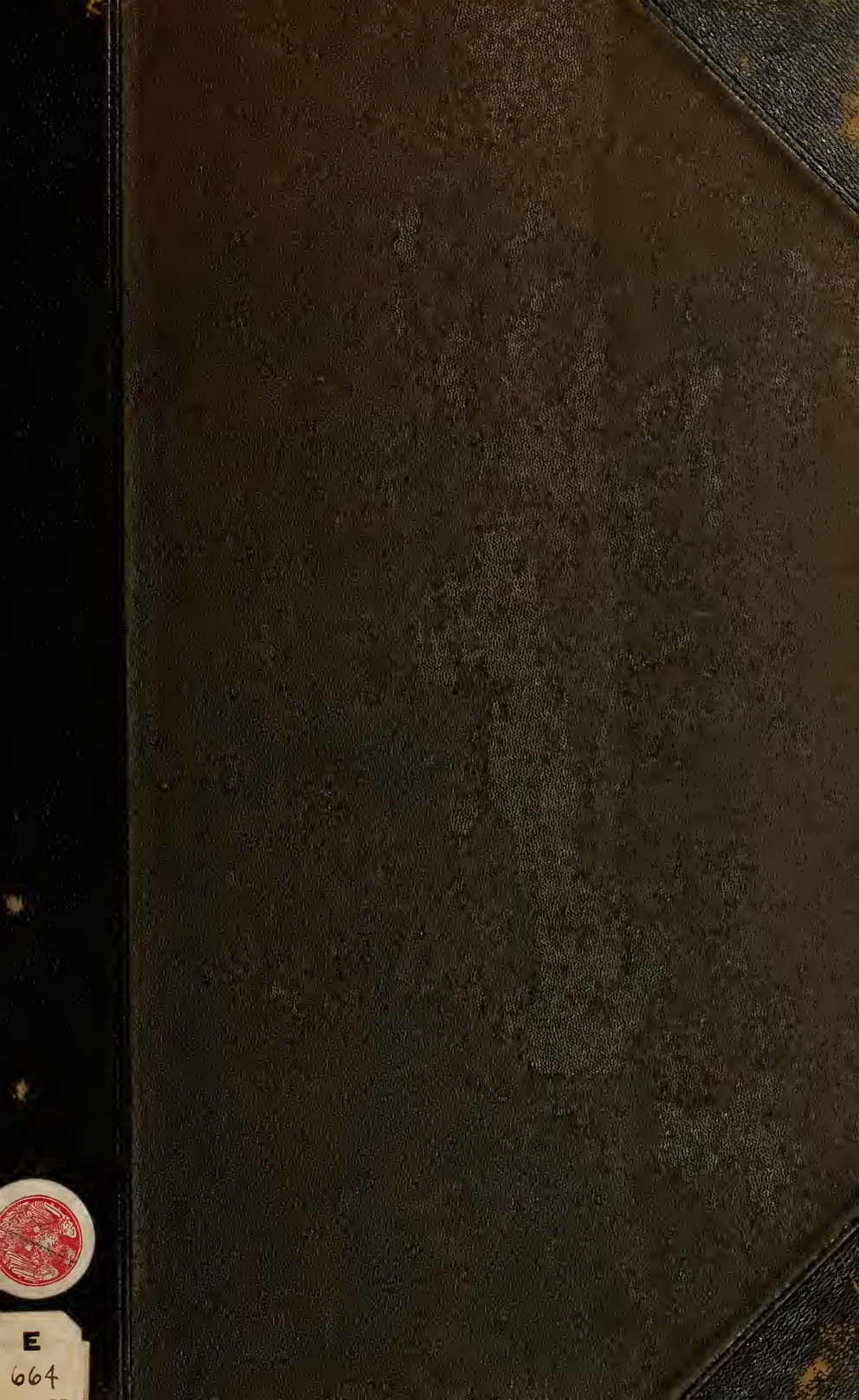
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U.S. 44th Cong., 1st sess., 1875-1876

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

ORRIS S. FERRY,

(A SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT,)

DELIVERED IN THE

SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

FEBRUARY 8, 1876.

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Washington

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

1876.

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Mr. EATON. Mr. President, I beg leave to offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of ORRIS S. FERRY, late Senator from Connecticut, the business of this body be now suspended, that his former associates may pay proper tribute to his public and private virtues.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

ADDRESSES.

Address of Mr. Eaton, of Connecticut.

Mr. President, the Reaper has indeed been busy in the Connecticut congressional field. Buckingham, Ferry, and Starkweather! Within the short space of less than a year these three gifted men have been gathered to their fathers; three names honored by their native State and honoring her. Difficult will it be to fill the places so long and so worthily occupied by them.

The death of a valuable and eminent public servant is a loss deeply to be deplored by his immediate constituency, and demands at the hands of his former associates proper and seemly action. Thus impressed, I submit to the Senate the brief remarks which I shall offer on this mournful occasion. No fulsome eulogy will be pronounced by me. It would be alike unworthy of my character and the Spartan simplicity which was one of the leading characteristics of the late Senator Ferry.

Orris Sanford Ferry was born in the town of Bethel, Fairfield County, State of Connecticut, on the 15th day of August, 1823. His father, a respectable inhabitant of Bethel, was largely engaged in the manufacture of hats,

and at an early age young FERRY was apprenticed to that business. But soon discovering the bent of his mind and his aversion to the trade to which he had designed him, the father released him from his bonds, giving him such educational advantages as enabled him to graduate from Yale College in the year 1844. He pursued the study of the law under two eminent members of the profession in his native county and was admitted to the practice of that profession in 1846.

Mr. FERRY immediately took high rank as a counselor and advocate, and at an early age was justly regarded as in the front rank of the profession in Connecticut. His wonderful power of analysis and the magnetism of his oratory gave him great power with the court and jury, and as a platform speaker he had no superior and few equals in his State.

Mr. FERRY served in the State senate two sessions, 1855 and 1856, and exhibited distinguished ability both as a legislator and political leader. I was not a member of the Connecticut legislature either of the terms that Mr. FERRY occupied his seat in the senate, but I saw much of his course and know the high estimate which was placed upon his powers by the leading men of the State.

In 1859 Mr. FERRY was elected to the other branch of the Federal Legislature, and served through the session with marked ability.

Shortly after the commencement of the late terrible civil conflict, Mr. FERRY was commissioned by Governor

Buckingham as colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers, and he remained in the service until the close of hostilities. As an officer I understand that he was respected by his superiors and beloved by those subjected to his command, performing all the duties devolved upon him with promptness and fidelity.

Resuming the practice of his profession in 1865, he was perhaps at the most successful period of his legal career when he was elected to the United States Senate for the term commencing March 4, 1867. From that time until his death the story of O. S. FERRY is a part of the history of this body, and I hesitate not to say that by his manly and independent course in the Senate, though differing widely upon some matters from many of his political friends, he won the respect and high regard of all his associates.

This is not the proper occasion to speak at length upon his intellectual efforts upon this floor, so well calculated to bring forth his great powers—efforts which placed him in the front rank of Senators as a debater and constitutional lawyer.

Devotedly attached to the great principles which form the base of our system of government, whenever in his opinion those principles were menaced or endangered, even by the action of political friends, the chains of party allegiance were broken as a strong man rends asunder ropes of yarn, and all the energies of his body and mind were summoned to the conflict in support of such views

as he believed to be right, just, and for the best interests of his country. One of the leading and governing traits of Mr. FERRY was his love of justice. He was eminently a just man. He never put to himself the question, Will it be politic to pursue a given course of action? The question which he mentally propounded was, Will it be just? And, once convinced of the justice of his position, he could neither be persuaded nor driven from the ground which his calm judgment had pronounced correct.

As a politician he was above the petty arts and meannesses which small men use to attain high position.

His personal integrity was pure and spotless. The armorial bearings of the French Bayard might well have been claimed by him. Indeed he was truly—

"Without fear and without reproach."

I should do injustice to my feelings if I failed to reproduce part of a letter from a distinguished divine, Rev. Dr. Childs, of Hartford, Conn.

Says Dr. Childs:

It is just ten years since my acquaintance with General FERRY commenced. Letters from him carried me to Norwalk, his place of residence, and resulted ultimately in my becoming his pastor. He was then in the prime of life, forty-two years of age. With a magnificent physical organization, a genial disposition, a strong, clear, active mind, earnest, enthusiastic, impetuous, yet cautious, wonderfully popular, no man in the State probably had the elements or gave the promise of a brighter future. The war was over, and he had returned to the practice of his profession, which opened to him all that his ambition could ask in that direction, and to the enjoyment of his home, which had for him stronger attractions than the scenes of public life.

With the movements that placed him in the National Senate I believe he had little to do. He was not a political manager. He was an honest man, and those who knew him best believed in him most fully. Even his political opponents never, as far as I am aware, questioned his perfect integrity. Intensely earnest in the cause that he espoused, he was more than a partisan. As a

national legislator his views were always broader than his party. Acquainting himself thoroughly with the constitutional history of his country, a diligent student of the history of other nations, he developed an independent, wise, far-seeing statesmanship, which, had he not been arrested by the hand of disease, would have placed him—at least ought to have placed him—in the very front rank of political leaders. In my judgment there is no office in the gift of the people that General FERRY would not have filled with eminent ability.

Senators, I have done.

Through my associate and myself, Connecticut mourns the loss of one of her most distinguished sons.

Through you, the representatives of the several States, the Federal Union expresses its deep sorrow at the loss of a wise, sagacious, and matured statesman, capable of lifting himself above the claims and behests of party in the discussion and consideration of questions involving the very life of the Federal system; a statesman whose profound genius entitles his name to be enrolled among the immortal few who knew how to make and keep a people!

ADDRESS OF MR. SARGENT, OF CALIFORNIA.

Mr. President, on the 27th of February, 1875, Senators rose in their places to pay fitting tributes of respect and affection to the memory of a dead Senator of Connecticut, whose illustrious public service and private virtues had commanded our admiration and love.

Among those who eloquently spoke on that occasion—not yet a year ago—was the Senator whose loss we now deplore. He was himself then feeble in frame, and halted tremblingly to his seat in this Chamber, the victim of a disease that was rapidly and certainly drying up the springs of life; and I doubt not that the painful thought was in other minds, as it was in my own, that ere long we might be called upon to mourn *his* loss and pay customary tribute to *his* memory. Yet his intellectual nature triumphed against the visible progress of disease, and he spoke with unexcelled force and beauty, and with deep feeling, of his associate and friend. His words come back to us to-day as singularly due to himself: "The plainest truth is his highest eulogy." He would not offend the modesty of the dead by words of boastful praise.

For himself, also, he seemed in the supreme moment impressed with the sentiment of that mournful elegy which

shows the emptiness of fame, the monotonous level of the grave:

> Can honor's voice provoke the silent dust?
> Or flattery soothe the dull, cold ear of death?

From such thoughts came his dying request that no eulogistic sermon be preached at his grave. The spirit of that request restrains me in what I may say to-day. But it would belittle the truth not to say that we who knew him well know that he was distinguished for eminent ability and zeal in the public service; that his mind was clear, sharp, and flexible as a Damascus blade. His sense of duty brought him daily to this Chamber and to the committee-room when the excuse for absence, of inextinguishable pain, was ready and obvious.

Our friend was fortunate in his reputation. A man's character is built solely by himself. He constructs it piece by piece, to deformity or symmetry. It cannot be created or destroyed by another. But reputations are the sport of circumstance, or the prey of malice; often beyond the control of the possessor, and as often fictitious and unjust. Sometimes, as with the persecuted Galileo, this is the fault of the age; sometimes, as with blind and despised Milton, it is the license of party. Happy is the wise and good against whom the mob has never cried, "Crucify him! release to us Barabbas!"

I only wish to add that from daily association with Mr. FERRY I learned to admire the rectitude visible in all his words and actions—a rectitude that seemed to spring not merely from a heart well guarded by conscience, but from

an even poise of intellect, which could not incline to temptation or stoop to wrong.

The impressions left here by his daily walk and conversation were familiar to his friends and constituents at home. I listened to the simple statement of his virtues, of his Christian faith and works, by his pastor, who spoke to his neighbors as the cold form of the dead Senator rested at the altar of the little church at Norwalk, and heard the same testimony which we can all bear—that he was conscientious, just, upright.

Such men, whatever their party associations, elevate the public service. Their influence is good, not only in the traces they may leave in wholesome statutes, but in the higher respect of the people for free institutions challenged by their conspicuous integrity.

Address of Mr. Bayard, of Delaware.

Mr. President, I have a sad satisfaction in yielding my tribute of sincere respect to the character and memory of our late associate, Mr. Ferry, of Connecticut, whose career has been so ably and well stated by his colleague, [Mr. Eaton.]

There never was any personal intimacy between us, and our views as to party never brought us into that sympathy which is begotten of a common endeavor for political ends.

Yet even in his life-time and amid the ardor of differing opinions, so often forcibly and positively expressed, as was his wont, I was always conscious, whether concurring in or dissenting from his views, that back of his utterances there shone the light of truthful intent, which caused a radiance to pervade everything he said. It was the sense of honest conviction, uncolored and undimmed by petty partisan or unjust considerations.

The real strength and safety of this Government lies in the absolute freedom with which opinions may be formed and expressed, and to the independent and courageous utterances of its able and virtuous men the people may best look for guidance.

This day our country needs men who will proclaim

their real judgments; not those who, to adopt a phrase that fell unpleasantly on my ear not long since in this Chamber, "follow, in order to lead." One who loved England described her as—

> A land where, girt by friends or foes,
> A man may speak the thing he will.

For when this shall not be, true manliness and honest public service will have departed, and time-serving have taken their place.

The Senator whose death we so justly mourn possessed the qualities which can create and preserve a free government of laws.

He had a mind of excellent natural powers, well matured, and enlightened by study of the laws, both in their enactment and practical administration.

He had experience of men living under the orderly *régime* of law, and also under the less defined control of military rule in time of war.

So fitted by events, he came into this council chamber of the States of the Union somewhat heated, perhaps, upon his first entry by the scenes of warfare in which he had just been engaged, and in which, as a soldier, he had borne a brave, conscientious, and distinguished part. But, from the first, I well remember how instinctively he recoiled from unworthy or improper schemes, how unerringly he probed and detected fraud, and unsparingly denounced dishonesty and corruption, wherever and whenever found, with a generous indignation.

He lived a life of quiet self-respect. No busy seeker he of men's praises; no dexterous manager of party forces; no scatterer of ambiguous voices in the market-place.

It was because he was a true friend to popular institutions that he despised and shunned the arts of the demagogue; much less did he stoop to gather personal or party advantage in the flames of discord among his countrymen. Thus I believe he was fit to rule men and to execute the great trusts of political power.

I could produce abundant extracts from his speeches in this Chamber where his censure of what he deemed corrupt, dishonest, and unworthy was unhesitating and unsparing. And he never permitted the garb of party to shelter a guilty man from his just denunciation. For six years we served together upon the Committee on Private Land-Claims, where cases involving the title or possession of extensive and valuable bodies of land came frequently before us. His intelligence, acumen, and fine legal and judicial abilities were in this way made known to me; and reports of important cases, comprehending questions of law and fact of a complicated nature, where lapse of time and fraud had combined to obscure truth and justice, were made by him and are on the files of the Senate, in which his vigorous and instinctively honest mind dissolved all doubts and arrayed the merits of the case in clear and orderly precision. The condition of physical health in which for years he performed his duties here must have touched and saddened us all; yet complaint was never

heard from his lips, and he would force his weak body to its work with a vigor and courage that it is not extravagant to call heroic. To know him was to respect him. His life here has ended, but not I trust its influences upon those who survive and shall succeed him.

"Well may we mourn him;
Well may we imitate his virtues."

Address of Mr. Howe, of Wisconsin.

Mr. President, I had not realized how peculiar and unique my relations with the late Senator Ferry had been until I sat down to consider what might be proper for me to say at his official funeral. I knew him first only when he entered the Senate; and I scarcely knew him anywhere else than in the Senate.

During his whole term of service here I was his colaborer; but I rarely saw him out of this Chamber. He never repelled me and was not at all repellant to me. I felt for him not only entire respect, but also great admiration; and therefore I was surprised to find upon reflection that I had never known him but in an official way and in his public character. During the whole time we worked together I never received from or made to him, so far as I remember, anything like a confidential communication. Nothing like a whispered or a side remark ever passed between us. I rarely ever spoke to him or heard him speak upon other than public affairs. And when for an occasional moment he turned to the discussion of private interests, his wont was to discuss them in official style. If I asked after his health, or for the news of the day, his habit was to answer with the same fidelity to fact and the

same accuracy of statement he would have employed in communicating with his physician or with a reporter for the Associated Press.

Once I ventured to applaud some unusually forcible and fervid remarks he made in the Senate. He answered me with a laugh, as little encouraging to my enthusiasm as if the splendid bronze charger on which sits Brown's statue of Scott should whinny when the admiring spectator claps his hands at the triumph of the artist. So I do not feel that I ever knew Mr. FERRY in any other character than that of a Senator. If indeed he had a life distinct or different from his public one, I was a stranger to it. My conclusion is that when he put on the senatorial robes he put them on for steady wear; that his purpose was to carry the proprieties of his great office constantly with him; not to be oppressed by them, still less to oppress any one by them, but to attract by and instruct with them everywhere and always.

I need not speak in this presence of the clearness or the vigor of his intellect. This Chamber, instructed by the loftiest utterances in our language, has witnessed too many evidences of both to make any mention of either profitable.

But more than most men he was sincere and earnest. Others have exhibited on special occasions and in pursuit of special ends more zeal than he was accustomed to betray, but few men of my acquaintance have seemed to burn with an ardor so constant and sustained as that which inspired him.

Two traits in his character deserve particular mention: his independence of thought and his fidelity to conviction.

He thought for himself and formed his own conclusions. He listened to the reasoning of others, but he was guided by his own. He was not likely to be the idol of a party, for he could not abjectly follow one. But he was not for that reason the more unsafe to lead a party, since he was sure to lead by the best light he had.

Perhaps less than others he realized the importance of organization to political achievement. Perhaps more than others he felt the importance of impressing individual opinion upon the public mind. Whatever might have been the cause, he seemed as prompt and resolute to attack what he deemed error in the party to which he belonged as in that to which he was opposed. At times, indeed, he appeared even more uncompromising toward his political associates than toward his political adversaries. There are those in the world still who hold that "unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required," and who are more intolerant of fault in their friends than in strangers.

Something must be pardoned to the exigencies of party as to the spirit of liberty. It is not wise to destroy a great party, freighted with precious hopes and struggling to noble ends, because it occasionally stumbles or for a moment seems to falter on its way. It is not wise to silence a great teacher, in whose light a generation has walked and the human race has visibly grown, because

of a single fault, whether imputed or real. It is not wise to drag the moon from the planetary system because there are a few spots on it. Of course, when the moon crumbles into ashes, and so flings dust and not light upon the beholder, it might as well be shoveled out of the system. When the teacher slips all the cables which moor him to truth, close reefs the hopes which waft him heavenward, and drifts out listless and rudderless upon the sea of unbelief, helplessly buffeted by all its waves and hopelessly clapboarded by all its barnacles, the sooner he goes to pieces the better. And when a party has sold itself to do evil, has coiled itself on the path of human progress; when it no longer seeks to give nurse to but rather to nurse upon its country, all good men should abandon it and unite to take it to pieces.

It is not easy always to discover the precise point where the paths of the partisan and of the patriot diverge. In every era men have been seen to desert the banners of party before the point of divergence was reached, and men have been seen to follow them long after that point was passed.

Undoubtedly good husbandry will seek to garner up all the wheat; and good husbandry will burn the chaff. But some are so eager of grain they will continue to rake over the straw long after the wheat is all out; and some are so impatient of chaff they will kindle the fires in it while it is yet heavy with the bread of life.

The late Senator from Connecticut, however, never set

fire to unthrashed harvests. He did not always keep even step with the party in which he trained, but he never deserted it. Occasionally perhaps by ill-timed contentions he obstructed its progress, but I think he never meant to imperil its final triumph. I did not always agree to the correctness of his conclusions, but I never for a moment doubted the sincerity of them.

And the fidelity with which he adhered to his convictions and the courage with which he asserted them was an instruction to us all and deserved all praise. Where he went, belief and affirmation walked hand in hand. He seemed absolutely exempt from all physical and all moral tremors such as are born of fear. On the field and in the forum he flung himself into the encounter with equal readiness.

Within an hour after his State had offered him a regiment to lead to battle he accepted the solemn trust. We have seen him enter upon an engagement here with even less deliberation. Day after day he sat here racked with physical pains, but no moan escaped him. His body was enfeebled by disease, but his spirit never languished.

Wherever his sense of duty pointed the way, there he was sure to tread. By him adversaries were uncounted and results were uncalculated. His lips never expressed it, but his manner seemed to say with the young Prince of Tyre—

> Like a bold champion, I assume the lists,
> Nor ask advice of any other thought
> But faithfulness and courage.

ADDRESS OF MR. FRELINGHUYSEN, OF NEW JERSEY.

Mr. President, change is written on everything with which we are familiar. The spring, the summer, the golden autumn, and the icy winter chase each other, and while we recognize the one it is gone. The forest is no sooner clothed in its luxuriant foliage than it begins to disrobe, and presently its bare poles stand up against the sky. The creations of human industry and genius, whether of kingdom or code, of monument or picture, crumble away before this universal law. These changes are fraught with instruction, and remind us that we shall not long continue as we now are. But it is when the stern messenger calls away a companion distinguished for his genius and his eloquence, his purity, and his Christian faith that we learn the most impressive of moral lessons.

The average age of the members of this body is perhaps fifty years. In that past period a thousand, yes, nearer two thousand, millions of sentient beings such as we, capable of indefinite if not of infinite moral and intellectual development, have appeared upon the stage of time, there rejoiced and emulated, suffered and striven, and have then departed forever; their entry and exit being alike mysterious.

Brief as has been their visit to earth, it has been long enough to effect several demonstrations:

It has proven that there is a spiritual as well as a material existence; for they were all conscious of being, and they were all recognized as being, in their personality, spiritual.

It has proven that they were moral intelligences, for no matter how enfeebled by want or how degraded by bad associations, there never was one of that mighty host, with every selfish inducement to decide in his own favor, who has not condemned and blamed himself for every wrong he committed.

It has proven, by the acquisitions those intelligences have made in languages and laws, in philosophy and art, that they are capable of perpetual progression.

It has proven that they were not the results of natural causes, for they have seized upon nature and made it subservient to their pleasure. The very elements have been subjected to their service; its obstacles, such as oceans and space, storms and lightnings, have been overcome and conquered.

Our race stands out the supernatural by an irrefragable logic. If this be not true, why admire the heroism of the martyr dying for his faith more than the fire that consumes him? Why render more homage to the patriot soldier who dies in front of the line than to the steed which spur and bridle have forced to the danger? Why more gratitude to a friendship that is true amid tempta-

tions to betray than to the steady current of the river that makes its way over rocks and precipices? It is man as a positive force superior to nature that we admire.

In him we to-day lament the intellectual and moral was in a marked degree predominant. His physical infirmities seemed to augment that supremacy. In the prime of life, shattered by disease, he resolutely and firmly adjusted himself to the situation. We have seen him standing there, advocating those measures he believed best for his country, while his countenance was distorted from pain. His spirit firmly held the mastery over physical forces. They could not carry the citadel of his soul.

He had, too, marked independence of character and thought, and possessed the concomitant virtue of courage. He was satisfied of his ability by investigation to arrive at a sound conclusion. He knew that his motives were pure and honest, and when his opinions were formed he was not to be swerved from them. Though not indifferent to popular opinion, as no sound mind is, he had much of the spirit of that old hero who said, "Were there as many devils in Worms as roof-tiles, I would on."

I did not always think him right, but I always felt re-assured where I found myself voting as he voted.

He was a man of good education and attainments. He had not high culture; few men have. High culture is not essential to excellence or usefulness; if it were, our republican institutions, State and national, would be in a sad condition. His education was sufficient to have de-

veloped his native powers and to render him conscious of his strength, so that he went fearlessly and successfully forward as a leader in life's duties.

Mr. FERRY's reasoning powers were of a superior order, and were habitually fortified by careful reflection on the subject he would present. He seized the strong point of the question under investigation and wielded it with great power. In presenting his views he was direct, plain, and logical, and in that he impressed his hearers with the strength of his own convictions, so that they sympathized with him; he was eloquent.

When that terrible calamity, the record of which is found in thousands of desolate homes, overtook our country, his patriotism shone forth. A Representative of the nation, he became a patrol to guard its capital; and afterward, at the head of the Fifth Connecticut Cavalry, bravely participated in its battles. But his patriotism was not sectional; it was not a narrow sentiment, confined to any locality. He fought to preserve here for all his country that civil liberty which, while the greatest of blessings, is conferred upon only a few spots of earth. He believed that he was contending for the right. I do not say he would not say that many of those with whom he contended did not, from their stand-point, think they were right. But this is true: when everywhere in this free Republic law shall be supreme, the rights of property and person secure, and constitutional political equality exercised and protected, then, when civil liberty is thus

established, and we rejoice in the prosperity, peace, and virtue that flow from it, all will remember past differences only to be the more grateful that we are again friends.

It was the crowning glory of our friend that he was a Christian. Conscious of a spiritual malady which human culture or educational development could not cure, he sought and found for a disease to the supernatural a supernatural remedy.

He has gone from us forever. Whither has he gone? All of him that is mortal quietly reposes in the soil of the gallant State that delighted to honor him. His memory is embalmed in the hearts of many loving countrymen, and his spirit has returned to the bosom of his Father.

Address of Mr. Thurman, of Ohio.

Mr. President, I have a few very sincere words to say of our deceased brother—words of sincere admiration of his character. That he was a man of intellect all who knew him will bear witness; that he was a speaker of singular perspicuity and force all who ever heard him can testify; that his mind was cultivated, his manners refined, his bearing dignified, simple, and wholly free from ostentation, is known to us all. But to me, as no doubt to others, the great trait of his character was its broad, enlightened, and fearless independence. He was one of that class of men—too limited in every land and in every age—who think for themselves and dare to say what they think. Paying due regard to the opinions of others and always willing to receive instruction, he nevertheless was careful to assert his brain and manhood by ultimately deciding for himself. And he had a breadth and grasp of mind, a magnanimity of soul, and a sense of justice that ever inclined him to measures of moderation and kindness; and in such measures his reason, his learning, and his feelings found the truest statesmanship. I might give not a few illustrations of these characteristics from the records

and debates of the Senate, but this is not an occasion to speak of matters that have not yet passed out of the region of controversy. Time, in my opinion, will vindicate the soundness of his judgment. His honesty of purpose needs no vindication, for no one was ever found to question that.

Address of Mr. Wadleigh, of New Hampshire.

Mr. President, I first met the late Senator Ferry in 1873, when I took a seat in this Chamber. He was then suffering from the disease which condemned him to partial seclusion and finally ended his life. I was not without prejudice against him, and should never have known him intimately had I not been associated with him upon the committee of which he was chairman. Thus brought into social relations with him my prejudice vanished, and I soon learned to admire the clearness and strength of his intellect and the purity and beauty of his character. Our acquaintance, on my part at least, grew into warm friendship, to which I should do violence were I to constrain myself to silence on this occasion.

The events of his life have been so fully traced by his colleague that I will only glance at them. Born in Connecticut, and always residing in his native county of Fairfield, his honors must have been doubly dear as coming from those who had known him from childhood. In youth he wrought in his father's manufactory, where he acquired a practical knowledge, which he sometimes unexpectedly exhibited to the discomfiture of those who assumed his want of it.

He graduated at Yale College, the *alma mater* of so many distinguished Americans, and chose the legal profession. We who knew him here cannot doubt that he deserved and won professional distinction, especially as an advocate. His strong common sense, his earnestness, born of intense convictions, his inborn and irrepressible love of right and justice, his contempt and hatred for meanness and wrong, and the mingled logic and feeling which animated his speech must have won the minds and the hearts of the clear-headed, strong-minded men who generally compose the juries of New England.

After two years of faithful service in the Connecticut Senate and three years' performance of the duties of prosecuting attorney in the county of Fairfield, he was, in April, 1859, elected to the national House of Representatives, where he served till March, 1861. In the midst of all-pervading treason which seemed to forbode the sure downfall of the Republic, his unselfish patriotism led him to enlist and serve as a private soldier in a company raised to defend the National Capital from the foes that menaced it from within and without. In the great struggle which preserved national unity and free institutions to our people he took no uncertain nor wavering part. His patriotism and his humanity alike condemned a rebellion which would have divided our country into independent and hostile States, without peace at home or power abroad, and which would have erected

upon the ruins of American freedom a government with human slavery for its corner-stone.

Having been appointed by Governor Buckingham to the command of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment he obtained by arduous study a knowledge of military affairs, and with his regiment did faithful and honorable service. Commissioned brigadier-general in 1862, he served with gallantry till the end of the war, when he resumed the practice of his profession at Norwalk. In 1867 he was elected to this Senate, and re-elected in 1872. His last public effort in this Chamber was to pronounce a true and beautiful eulogy upon his friend and colleague, Senator Buckingham. Much in that eulogy might be applied to the lamented FERRY himself. In it he seemed to be sounding his own requiem. The sorrowful task of preparing it almost overcame him, and admonished him that his own hold on life was rapidly breaking and that his feet were even then pressing the shore of that dark river over which his friend had passed to the unseen world. In vain he sought relief from medicine; it had no shield against the stroke of death. The dying Vice-President sent to him a message of love which never reached him. They died within a few hours of each other—loved, trusted, and mourned.

In the character of Senator FERRY it seems to me there was almost everything to admire and almost nothing to condemn.

His intellect was clear, powerful, and logical. Few

better speeches than his can be found in the records of American eloquence. Terse, vigorous, and full of fiery force, they were delivered with an earnestness of manner which gave them wonderful effect. His hearers felt that before them was a man who believed what he said, and who said it because he believed it. When warmed in debate his impulsive energy seemed to triumph over the cruel disease which, like the vulture of Prometheus, was gnawing his vitals. Yet, with all his mental strength, he had the ardent generosity and captivating frankness of youth and a feminine kindness of heart. The poor, the oppressed, the unhappy multitude whose lives are darkened by want, had never a friend whose heart beat for them with stronger sympathy. His love of right, of justice, of what Anglo-Saxons call "fair play," amounted to a passion. Yet he never stooped to flatter or amuse the people to whose welfare he devoted himself. His public addresses never appealed to the baser passions, but only to the sentiments of justice and duty in the hearts of his hearers, and to their judgment and reason. He was a patriot without being a demagogue.

He was by nature a man of unyielding courage, and in his later years his fear of God shut his heart against all other fear. He had the courage to be true to his convictions always and everywhere. No unpopularity of a cause could prevent his warmly espousing it. His independence of thought sometimes led to breaches of party discipline which would have been fatal to men of less purity, but

which never lost him the confidence of those who knew him. They knew that no selfish, dishonest motive could influence him. His character shielded him even against suspicion. They felt that modern degeneracy had not reached him; that, though poor, he could not be swayed by all "the gold of Ormus and of Ind." Their faith in him was well-founded. His feet were firmly planted on that eternal rock where stood in other days the martyrs who endured poverty, scorn, insult, torture, and death rather than disobey the whispers of conscience—that "still small voice" too often unheeded by men in high places. Yet he made no parade of his religion; it was concealed rather than ostentatiously displayed, and consisted in acts rather than in words. When some glaring examples of hypocrisy brought contumely upon the religious professions of statesmen, the pure, noble, honest life of FERRY did much to redeem genuine Christianity from reproach.

He once said to me that he tried to live as though the next moment would usher him to the bar of the Eternal Judge. To a man who thus lives, seeing continually the white throne of Omnipotence with the children of earth thronging to it for judgment, nothing is harder than to do wrong, and to him death is but the door to immortality. Though he leaves here no earthly riches, he leaves what is better—a stainless name and an example for emulation.

When we look upon such a life and such a death, when

we reflect how often of late the pale king of terrors has invaded this Chamber, and how soon we may receive his dread summons, shall we not be incited to the more faithful performance of our duties—duties involving the welfare of many millions of our fellow-men, which we owe to them, to our country, and to God?

ADDRESS OF MR. ENGLISH, OF CONNECTICUT.

Mr. President, one year ago last Saturday Mr. FERRY rose in his seat in this Chamber, in the performance of what he said was to him the saddest duty of his public life, to announce to the Senate the death of his colleague on this floor. On the 27th day of the same month he delivered in the Senate a eulogy on the life and character of Governor Buckingham which made a deep impression on the Senate and country at that time. It was his last public effort in the Senate. He returned to his family and home in Norwalk, where he died on the 23d day of November last.

By the dispensation of Providence, the State of Connecticut has lost by death not only two Senators, but quite recently one of her senior members in the House of Representatives, making, in all, one-half of her entire delegation in Congress, and all within the brief space of less than one year. It is but seldom that a State is called upon to endure such a triple affliction as her citizens mourn to-day.

Such, Mr. President, is the uncertainty of human life, and it admonishes us all to heed the divine admonition, "Be ye also ready."

To-day the Senate testifies its respect for the memory of Mr. FERRY.

Mr. President, while I had not the honor of serving with Mr. FERRY as a member of this distinguished body, it was my good fortune to know him long and to know him well. From my earliest acquaintance I had learned to respect him, not only for his superior abilities, but as a man of noble impulses and great purity of character.

Born among the hills of Connecticut, where he derived his first educational advantages in the public schools, and where he learned to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow; apprenticed at an early age, in his native town of Bethel, to his father, a prominent manufacturer of hats in that town; while thus engaged, he exhibited such a taste for books and knowledge as to induce his father to send him to Yale College, whence he was graduated in 1844. Of his class, Governor Haight, of California, and Governor and Senator Washburn, of Massachusetts, became the most prominent in political life. While in college he was not distinguished as a scholar, but as a writer and debater he was conspicuous and of great promise. He was thoroughly independent, and gave evidence of a noble and strong character.

His professional, military, and political life has been so ably presented by my distinguished colleague as to leave little or nothing more to be said upon these heads.

His speeches in the Senate were marked by great clearness of expression and force of utterance, and

always commanded attention. He was in the best sense an eloquent man, because he spoke his convictions of duty, and had opinions, solid and strong, of his own. He dared to differ from his party and be true to his individual convictions, to his sense of duty, to his country, and to his God.

His recent efforts in this Chamber, in support of what he believed to be for the best interests of the country, are so fresh in the minds of the people as to make it unnecessary for me to recur to them.

During his whole public service, and often in situations in which bribes or gifts might have been accepted, such was his sterling integrity he was placed beyond the reach of temptation. As a Senator he had a clear conception not only of the duties but the responsibilities of the position, and was fearless in the discharge of those duties. When he spoke, he spoke as a statesman, and not as a politician; for politician he never was, nor could he be, certainly not in that sense that makes politics a profession, whereby offices of honor or profit may be obtained. Nor was he in any sense an office-seeker. He would neither seek nor ask for any office of honor or profit, nor did he crave any. But, on the contrary, had he been governed by his own impressions, regardless of the opinions of others, he would have continued in the practice of his much-loved profession, and which would have been greatly to his pecuniary advantage. But from a sense of duty he accepted the high and honorable position to which he was

elected by his fellow-citizens, having but one object in view, to discharge the duties of the same in such a manner as would conduce to the best good of his State and country.

Mr. FERRY, from disease and bodily infirmity, had been a very great sufferer for several years, which would have completely discouraged a less determined man; but he struggled on, and by his indomitable will continued in the discharge of the duties of his office of Senator up to the close of the last session. But, as time rolled on, his physical vigor became paralyzed. Suffering bodily pain and agony, with the fact of approaching death before him, he still continued faithfully to discharge every duty, until at last his physical strength gave way; but his mental power held out until the end.

It may not, Mr. President, be inappropriate for me to allude to the Christian character of Mr. FERRY, and the esteem with which he was held at home among his friends and fellow-citizens. He was a man of an emotional nature and instinctive reverence for spiritual truth. In his decided religious impressions he showed great energy of mind and independence of character. His political life had given him a rapid growth of reputation for intellect and capacity. At home, among his fellow-citizens, he had obtained great influence, not only as a public man, but in the church, of which he was a devoted member as well. He taught a Bible-class, and out of his efforts to do good to his charge he prepared a course of lectures in support

of the divine origin of Christianity, which was numerously attended and produced a profound impression.

Struggling against infirmity, which sapped the springs of life, he held on bravely to the end, sustained by a noble ardor and indomitable pluck, by his Christian faith and heroism, and died the death of a Christian patriot, deeply lamented by all of his friends and fellow-citizens.

Mr. President, I beg leave to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That, as an additional mark of respect for the memory of Mr. FERRY, the Senate do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to unanimously; and the Senate (at two o'clock and thirty-five minutes p. m.) adjourned.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.

A message was received from the Senate, by Mr. Sympson, one of its clerks, announcing the proceedings of that body on the death of ORRIS S. FERRY, late a Senator from Connecticut.

DEATH OF THE LATE ORRIS S. FERRY.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will read the message just received from the Senate.

The Clerk read as follows:

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, *February* 8, 1876.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of ORRIS S. FERRY, late a Senator from Connecticut, the business of this body be now suspended, that his former associates may pay proper tribute to his public and private virtues.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives.

ADDRESSES.

Address of Mr. Phelps, of Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, the sudden decease of my colleague, [Mr. Starkweather,] who had the matter in charge, and the request of my remaining colleagues, have unexpectedly devolved upon me the duty of moving the adoption of the resolutions which have just been transmitted from the Senate, and of supporting them by such remarks appropriate to the occasion as I may be able to make; and I regret that I have had neither the time nor opportunity to make a fitting preparation for the discharge of such a delicate and important duty.

Senator Ferry was born at Bethel, in the State of Connecticut, on the 15th day of August, 1823. A portion of his early years was spent in manual labor in the manufactory of his father, but he soon developed such a desire for knowledge and such uncommon indications of intellectual superiority that he laid aside the implements of a trade he was rapidly acquiring, and, at the age of fourteen years, entered upon the necessary studies preparatory to

admission in Yale College, from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-one. His collegiate career was brilliant, and the high distinction which he afterward attained was clearly foreshadowed at his graduation. He had a peculiar fondness as well as a special aptness for forensic effort, which naturally led him to adopt the profession of the law, and, as a student in the offices and under the personal instruction of two of the most eminent jurists of his native State, he mastered with great facility the intricate science of jurisprudence. He was admitted to the bar in 1846, and immediately commenced a successful practice at Norwalk, Connecticut, which he a few years later allowed to be interrupted by his active participation in the earnest political contest which was then going on. He was at that time an ardent partisan, and was elected to the State senate in 1855 and again in 1856 as a member of the party then known as American. His party was in the ascendency and his talents gave him a conspicuous position among its leaders. As a tactician he was sagacious, and as a debater had all the weapons of logic at his command and wielded them with surprising power. He was independent in thought and positive in action. He shunned all artifice and indirection and fearlessly advocated what he believed to be right, and with equal boldness opposed and unsparingly denounced what he thought to be wrong. It would have violated his nature to have been untrue to his honest convictions, and he was therefore utterly uncompromising between right and wrong.

His fame as a local legislator gave him such prominence that he became a candidate of the republican party for Congress in 1857, but was then unsuccessful. He was again placed in nomination in 1859, and elected to the Thirty-sixth Congress, and in this intellectual arena of the nation, which was at that time throbbing with excitement and numbered among its prominent actors many of the most distinguished minds of the country, he acquitted himself with marked distinction. Among the important positions assigned to him in that Congress was a place on the celebrated committee of thirty-three, which was organized to consider the condition and relations of the seceded States

Upon the breaking out of the late civil war, all the enthusiasm of his nature was aroused for the preservation of the Union, and he entered the Army as colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers. On the 17th of March, 1862, he was commissioned a brigadier-general by President Lincoln, and served in that capacity in different divisions of the Army until near the close of the war.

In 1866 he was elected by the legislature of Connecticut to the Senate of the United States, and was re-elected in 1872. His last public effort there was to pronounce an eloquent tribute of respect and affection to the memory of his deceased colleague, Senator Buckingham. With what commanding ability he discharged his duty in that body I need not repeat. It is sufficient to say that by his emi-

nent service he acquired a national reputation as an able, faithful, and conservative Senator, who loved his country more than he loved his party, and in his election honored his State more than it honored him.

As a lawyer he possessed a remarkably clear, discriminating legal mind, which thoroughly understood and intelligently digested the principles of the common law. He was a conscientious adviser, laborious and careful in the preparation of his causes and skillful in their management, and before neither court or jury had many competitors who could meet him on more than equal terms. In his deportment he maintained the dignity of his profession and cherished its honor with true devotion.

In the later years of his life he was the subject of strong religious convictions, and publicly and with his whole heart professed a belief in the fundamental doctrines of the Christian religion, and made their practice a sincere and constant part of his daily life.

He was a man of unbending integrity, and deeply imbued with the true spirit of manhood. He scorned everything that was base and despised everything that was mean. Corruption never tarnished his honor. He had no itching palm for dishonestly-gotten gold, and was at all times above all suspicion of complicity in legislative jobs and subsidies. He received no compensation or emolument except what he was by law clearly entitled to take, and it is the noblest tribute that can be offered to his memory to say that he entered the public service poor

and continued many years in the civil and military departments of the Government, and, without extravagance in living, died in his senatorial robes as poor as he entered that service.

He expired at his home on Sunday, the 21st day of November last, after a long and suffering illness. The best medical skill was unavailing to heal his malady and restore his health. The highest type of womanly excellence and devotion existed in his household, and their blessed ministrations, often more potent than the physician's remedies, were, by those every way worthy his companionship, constantly and with cheerful fidelity exerted to the last.

In his death the country has lost one of its purest and ablest statesmen; the Commonwealth of Connecticut, which proudly reckons many distinguished sons among her jewels, the peer of the most gifted of them; the legal profession one of its soundest counselors and most eloquent advocates; the community in which he lived, an accomplished Christian gentleman; and his family such a husband and father as only such a husband could be to a loved and loving wife, and such a father to an affectionate and devoted daughter.

It is said, sir, that death loves a shining mark. This cannot well be more strikingly exemplified than in the fact that since the adjournment of the last Congress we have lost an Ex-President, a Vice-President, and a Senator of the United States and six members elected to this

House. The State which I have the honor in part to represent has been especially bereaved. Within the short space of less than one year she has been deprived of two Senators: Buckingham, who had rendered most distinguished service and been loved and honored as a State rarely loves and honors a son however eminent, whose decease gave expression to some of the most touching eulogies ever delivered in this Capitol; and FERRY, no less worthy and distinguished, whose private virtues and public services we are now endeavoring to commemorate. Their fame belongs not alone to Connecticut, but to the country; but we cherish with a just State pride the fact that they were born and lived and are buried on our own soil. Their good names are indelibly engraved on the hearts of the people of the State, and their graves are shrines which virtue and patriotism and religion will forever venerate. She has also been deprived of a distinguished Representative who has just been borne to his last resting-place in the bosom of her soil and in the presence of his mourning constituency.

The event we are considering is but the reiteration of the solemn and oft-repeated lesson of mortality—another impressive reminder that "man walketh in a vain shadow." Public honors and high position furnish no exemption. The all-wise and almighty Power who decrees the mandate, and the messenger who executes it, respect no distinctions of rank or condition. The mocker at human pride follows man into the high places of the land, and

there, as well as in the lowliest, repeats to him the startling message, and the suddenness with which its utterance sometimes falls upon our ears cannot be more forcibly illustrated than by a recurrence to the fact that I am now addressing the House in the place of a lamented colleague who but a few days since was in the enjoyment of his accustomed health, and had prepared himself for and expected to perform the duty, but has himself been called to his final rest. At the proper time in the course of these proceedings that voice from the dead, speaking in language much more beautiful and eloquent than any I can express, will be read as one of the addresses on this occasion. It will help to remind us that we are constantly living in the shadow of the grave, and, alas! too often allow ambition and covetousness and pride to conceal the shadow or drive it from our thoughts; and to teach us that it will be true wisdom to pause in our career of worldliness, and remember there is something within our reach higher than earth's highest honors, which, if attained, will take away the sting of death and crown us with immortal life. In his last years Senator FERRY, trusting in the divine promise, earnestly and humbly sought that happy and exalted end.

I offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the House has received with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of ORRIS S. FERRY, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. FERRY the business of the House be now suspended, that proper tributes may be paid to his public and private virtues.

Address of Mr. Seelye, of Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite certain that the relations of no other one here with Senator Ferry were the same as my own. The gentleman who has preceded me, and those who are to follow, as also those who listen, knew him only in the varied relations, public and social, of mature life, but he and I were boys together, sharing with one another the gladness of childhood and the aspirations and purposes and hopes of youth. From the little village where his father and mine were near neighbors and friends, and where he and I were playmates and schoolmates, there is no other Representative now here, and it is upon this account that I have been requested to say a few words respecting his early life. It was spent in Bethel, Connecticut, where he was born August 15, 1823. He was a restless, eager, daring boy, not fonder of work than boys usually are, but a leader in all boyish sports, from which no one of his companions was wont to go home with a dirtier face or with hair more tangled and clothes more torn than he. But exuberant as he was of life and vigor, he was neither rough nor rude nor coarse even as a boy. I never knew him, as he grew larger, to tyrannize over smaller boys, though I have often seen him show a sort

of chivalric adherence to the weaker side. Generous, high-minded, and a universal favorite, the boy was father of the man.

In school he always had his lessons, though no one ever knew when or where or how he got them; he was not early fond of study, but, if he ever worried his teachers by his restless inattention, he never wearied them by obliging them to repeat their instructions.

If, however, not an early student, he was as a boy a great reader of books, especially in the line of poetry and history and romance, of which his father's library furnished the largest collection then in the village, and from whose stores he was as fond of bringing feasts for the fancy of his boyish friends as they were of feeding upon them. His earliest aspirations were for a literary life; and I doubt if he ever dreamed of his later achievements in the Senate and the administration of public affairs. With unwonted freedom, even for a boy, he told his day-dreams, and the boys who heard them, and over whom his words could throw a spell like that felt by all who listened to him in his riper years, never doubted that they would all come true.

But his lot was cast where other occupations than play or reveling in romances or building castles in the air were soon pressed upon him. In that little village there was no *dolce far niente* view of life. Everybody had something to do and was expected to do it. Hardly any vice seemed more repugnant to the busy workers there

than idleness, and about the most condemning epithet among them which could be applied to man or woman was laziness or shiftlessness. There were no rich people there; and had there been, I hardly see how they could have lived a life of leisure without being stung like drones by the busy bees around them. A child's world of fancy there soon found itself intersected by the hard world of fact, and ORRIS FERRY soon learned that the actual present had a work for him no less than the far-off future. While in the dreamy fancies of his childhood there might have been prefigured, had there only been the eye to see the picture, that far-reaching meditativeness in which "the heaven which lay about his infancy" still stretched before the vision of his later years, I think he owed also whatever persistence of purpose and energy of work he afterward revealed as much to these early conditions which surrounded him as to his original endowment. But the fearlessness with which he exercised his purpose, the courage of his convictions, the bravery with which he could throw aside all arbitrary domination and be a freeman and a hero, this was not dependent upon any circumstances of his early life; this was his original possession, as conspicuously his in the earliest revealings of himself as in the latest, and would have been revealed as his wherever he had been born or however bred.

But there were other traits prominent in his later life which were, doubtless, partly due to his early surroundings. The religious faith, which was the ever-brightening

crown of his maturest years, was, I cannot but think, greatly aided by the associations of his childhood. In the center of the village where was his childhood's home —central alike in location and in the power it represented—was the Congregational meeting-house, where the only church then in the place gathered with its congregation for public worship, and to which were drawn and from which dispersed the currents by which—as originally was the case in almost every New England town and village—the life of that community was directed and sustained. Hard workers as were the men and women there, sharp, too, at a bargain as they were, and eager to get gain, no one with much knowledge of them but would soon discover that in their thoughts and questionings the next world had no less prominence than this. The warmest discussions ever held among them were on the highest themes of theology, discussions which, however wide their range, were always brought for settlement, in the last appeal, to Scripture and to common sense. It was quite natural that the children breathing such an air should early learn to talk about these things, and to think about them, also, for themselves, and quite to be expected, also, that one like Orris Ferry, always unwilling to have his thoughts constrained, and always unable to have them concealed, should in his freedom of inquiry find things where common sense and Scripture seemed to clash, and in his fearlessness of expression should declare this seeming contradiction without proviso.

He early avowed his skepticism respecting all religious things, though he always had a certain seriousness of soul which never suffered him to be a scoffer. In later years, when by a further and profounder exercise of this same freedom of inquiry, he became a sincere believer—showing again that it is only the shallow draught at the fountain of free thought which intoxicates and the deep draught which sobers one again—it was not strange that the living faith with which his soul was penetrated should find its fitting expression and liveliest exercise in that form of doctrine and mode of conduct which, though for years repugnant to his convictions and his habits, were yet the earliest, as they were the latest and most intimate, associations of his life.

I do not speak of him as a man, so affectionate, so truthful, so far-sighted, so courageous, with his commanding presence and controlling speech; for as such he has already been and is to be aptly portrayed by those who knew him only as a man. And I trust I shall be pardoned for dwelling at such length upon these thoughts of his boyhood, which make his memory very tender to me and which awaken a sense of personal loss beyond my power to express, as I think of the hopes we both had cherished of reviving here the intimacy of our boyhood, and of the expectation, which had been to me very bright and dear, that I might find from his superior wisdom and wider knowledge of public affairs a much-needed aid.

Address of Mr. Garfield, of Ohio.

I have never in this House performed a duty so sad and so sacred as that which is devolved upon me to-day. Two weeks ago last Friday our late beloved friend and associate, Hon. H. H. Starkweather, of Connecticut, came to my seat and urgently requested that I should address the House on the resolutions in reference to the death of Senator Ferry. After speaking with me for a few moments, he was called to the chair to preside and remained there perhaps half an hour; but, not feeling well, he soon passed out, and never entered the Hall again.

The very evening when he was stricken with his mortal disease he had completed, or very nearly completed, the remarks which he proposed to offer to the House on this occasion. I have not had the heart even to keep my promise to him. I could not think of this subject without being overwhelmed with the sense of the double loss; but I am sure the House will permit me, in place of any remarks of my own, to do what our departed friend can no longer do for himself, to read the speech as he left it. I have filled a few blanks and added here and there a word to supply the final revision which his own hand would have made; and thus the dead speaks for the dead

friend whom he soon followed. I read, and ask that it may go into the RECORD as his speech, the following

REMARKS PREPARED BY THE LATE HON. H. H. STARKWEATHER.

Mr. Speaker, since the adjournment of the last Congress, God in His sovereign wisdom has removed from the service of the nation Senator ORRIS S. FERRY, one of its distinguished and trusted councilors.

At any time the death of a Senator in the midst of his labors, so conspicuous for ability, for patriotism, and for a conscientious devotion to duty as was Mr. FERRY, is a great national loss. His departure from us, preceding but a few hours that of Vice-President Wilson, and following so closely that of Senators Sumner and Buckingham, and others illustrious in the national councils, heightens and emphasizes the bereavement. The death of Mr. FERRY is a peculiar loss to the State that he served and honored, and whose memory she cherishes with an affectionate admiration. Throughout the Commonwealth, among the learned, the founders of our academies, universities, in our common schools, among the ministers of religion, and the humble worshipers of God—along all its hills, in the Sunday-schools that he loved, among learned judges and eminent counselors, among the sons of toil for whom he spoke, among the good and the great, and in every cottage of the poor—there is great sadness.

Twice within a few months death has invaded the sanctuary of our hearts, and taken from us our trusted public

servants and most honored citizens. No two men of this generation, among all the honored names of our commonwealth, could touch so many homes with a sense of personal loss. While their work here is finished, there is left to us the reflection that for this life our present relations are severed forever.

"Around us each dissevered chain
In sparkling ruin lies,
And earthly hands can ne'er again
Unite the broken ties."

Mr. FERRY was born in the town of Bethel, in Fairfield County, on the 15th of August, 1823. His father, Starr Ferry, was an enterprising business man of that town—a citizen known for his good sense, integrity, and social position in a community remarkable for its intelligence and culture.

He was early apprenticed to his father's trade, and in after-life he had a just pride of his proficiency in his calling. An incident occurred at the last session of Congress that illustrates his character. As an advocate was explaining before the Committee on Patents the mysteries of a certain invention, he was surprised to learn that the chairman of the committee had learned the art when a boy and was still in advance of the advocates and experts in the thoroughness of his knowledge of the subject. Early, however, the love of books and of study took possession of him and he left his trade to enter on a course of preparation for college. But of this the learned and distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, [Mr. Seelye,] the

companion of his boyhood, can more appropriately speak. In passing, it is sufficient to remark that as a boy he gave high promise of success.

At the age of seventeen he entered Yale College, and here, says one well qualified to judge—

> His fine powers of mind soon found appreciative recognition, particularly in the department of literature and debate. He early became one of the editors of the Yale Literary Magazine; was also a successful competitor for the Townsend literary prize; and uniformly stood among the very highest in anything that required elaborate or extemporaneous address. His prestige thus gained in letters, together with his hearty social qualities, and his fine personal appearance, secured for him a marked popularity as well in circles without as within the college.

He graduated in 1844 at the age of twenty-one, and after a year he entered the office of the late Chief-Justice Thomas B. Butler as a student at law, was soon admitted to the bar, and became his partner.

Here his associations were most fortunate. Judge Butler was remarkable, not only for his legal learning, but for his varied acquirements, his love of justice, and his generous social qualities. Mr. FERRY's advent to the bar was in other respects fortunate in its surroundings. The bar of Fairfield County and the adjoining counties of New Haven and Litchfield at this time had many eminent lawyers. There were the venerable Charles Hawley, Roger Sherman Baldwin, the Ingersolls, Judges Butler, Seymour, Dutton—all learned in the mysteries of jurisprudence, the first two becoming chief-justices of our high court. Besides these there were a score of younger men, Minor, Beardsley, Loomis, White, Carter, Beach, Harrison, and others, near his own age, of rare ability.

At no time in our history has there been a greater array of talent at the bar than this. It is a sufficient commendation of Mr. FERRY, and not a little remarkable, that within a few years from his admission to the bar he placed himself at the head of his profession.

Soon after his admission to the bar Mr. FERRY married the daughter of Governor Bissell, and the daughter and wife, in womanly virtues, in social culture, and in the sweet graces of charity and religion, is worthy of her illustrious father and husband.

When yet a young man he was early honored at home. He was successively chosen judge of probate, State attorney, and State Senator. Each of these positions he filled well.

It was my good fortune to be a member of the Legislature of Connecticut in 1856, and to be a member of the judiciary committee of which he was chairman. It was then often a subject of remark among men eminent at the bar that Mr. FERRY, (then but thirty-two,) not only as a debater, but a legislator, had the rarest ability, and at that early day he gave full promise of those great qualities which have for eight years past been the admiration of his colleagues in the Senate. He was then, as ever, brave, true, great.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. FERRY for his public addresses before the people of our State. His logic and his eloquence were irresistible on these occasions.

Mr. FERRY was elected to the Thirty-sixth Congress

from Connecticut and took his seat in this House in 1859 amid the stirring scenes immediately preceding the rebellion. This body then embraced many men of marked character and ability. Here were the great leaders of the South, men schooled in politics and accustomed to rule; and from the North came also many men of great ability, but mostly new to the public service.

Mr. FERRY from the first took a conspicuous part in the discussions of the House, and was one of the committee of thirty-three appointed by the Speaker on "so much of the President's message as relates to the perilous condition of the country." Early in the debates he delivered a speech which was regarded by his associates as very able and effective, and expressing at that time the true position of its most thoughtful statesmen. His analysis of the state of the country at that trying epoch and his views of the duty of the Government now read like prophecy.

At the close of his two years in the House he raised and commanded a regiment, and served in the Army with honor to the close of the war. His whole heart was in the work; and he devoted his entire time and ability to its duties. When the war was over he resumed his profession; but the next year, 1866, he was elected to the Senate and served a full term, and was re-elected in 1872.

The public career of Mr. FERRY while in the Senate has been so faithfully delineated in the main by his distinguished associates that there is little need to recount them here; and, besides, I feel how inadequate are any

words of mine even to express my reverence and admiration.

He entered the Senate at the commencement of the Fortieth Congress. Great questions, among them the problems of reconstruction, were on our hands; with these, new relations of the dominant and the late subject classes as they emerged from a state of war.

I have seen it suggested by those who have failed fully to apprehend the position of Mr. FERRY that he was unduly conservative in his tendencies on questions of reconstruction. On the contrary, it can be said to his credit that on these measures he led the advance. His speeches in the Senate and in the conventions at home show that from the outset he maintained with masterly ability not only the right of the nation, but its duty to secure liberty, enfranchisement, and civil rights to those who had been slaves. It is true, in connection with many leading men of the party, he early favored a large amnesty to those who had been in rebellion against the Government.

But in all his work in the Senate his noble utterances in regard to the power of the nation to suppress rebellion, his denunciations of secession, his appeal for justice for the slave, ally him indissolubly with the great republican leaders whose fame is immortal.

It would be a pleasant service to quote from his speeches and rehearse his acts as proofs, if they were needed, of his fidelity to liberty and his faith in the in-

destructibility of the Union. There are no nobler acts or utterances on record. But I must not detain the House longer with this sketch while others wait to unfold with better-chosen words his character and services.

Before closing, however, let me refer to the crowning glory of his life. Mr. FERRY had a strong religious element in his character. This was with him a great controlling force, and not a sentiment. It added greatly to his strength and upheld him not only in great emergencies but in the daily labors of life. He loved to contemplate and discourse of the Infinite God and the glory of His reign. He dwelt with rapture on the majestic prophecies of Isaiah and the grand poems of the Hebrew minstrel king. His discourses on religion became a part of his beautiful life-work in his home.

It was most beautiful and grand, amid failing strength and long years of pain, to hear him discourse of—

> "Rest at last,
> Repose complete, eternal;
> Love, rest, and home."

No cloud obscured the effulgence of his hope or dimmed his vision. Clear and high his intellect and his faith rose above all storms and darkness, and sustained him in sweet companionship amid the unrevealed mysteries of pain. As his end drew near, he came back to his home, after a brief absence. There, under his own roof, with the angels of his household about him, he passed to his rest.

Thinking of trials past, and knowing as we do how

well he had wrought for the future, trusting in the merits of his dear Lord, he could repeat the sweet lines of Bonar—

Beyond the smiling and the weeping
I shall be soon;
Beyond the waking and the sleeping,
Beyond the sowing and the reaping,
I shall be soon.
Love, rest, and home!
Sweet home!
Lord, tarry not, but come.

Beyond the blooming and the fading
I shall be soon;
Beyond the shining and the shading,
Beyond the hoping and the dreading,
I shall be soon.
Love, rest, and home!
Sweet home!
Lord, tarry not, but come.

Beyond the rising and the setting
I shall be soon;
Beyond the calming and the fretting,
Beyond remembering and forgetting,
I shall be soon.
Love, rest, and home!
Sweet home!
Lord, tarry not, but come.

Beyond the parting and the meeting
I shall be soon;
Beyond the farewell and the greeting,
Beyond the pulse's fever beating,
I shall be soon.
Love, rest, and home!
Sweet home!
Lord, tarry not, but come.

Beyond the frost-chain and the fever
I shall be soon;
Beyond the rock-waste and the river,
Beyond the ever and the never,
I shall be soon.
Love, rest, and home!
Sweet home!
Lord, tarry not, but come.

Ay, the sweeter words of inspiration—in the volume of the book it is written, "Lo, I come quickly. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

The resolutions offered by Mr. Phelps were agreed to unanimously.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

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(A SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT,)

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